

**Missouri Assessment Program**

**Communications Arts  
Practice Test**

**Grade 6**

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print first name and last name)

**Teacher's Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print first name and last name)

**School District** \_\_\_\_\_

**Building/Room** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Form 23**

**Do not open test booklet until instructed to do so.**

## *Winter Nights*

by Mary F. Butts

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Blow, wind, blow!  
Drift the flying snow!  
Send it twirling, whirling overhead!  
There's a bedroom in a tree,  
Where, snug as snug can be,  
The squirrel nests in his cozy bed.

Shriek, wind, shriek!  
Make the branches creak!  
Battle with the boughs till break o' day!  
In a snow cave warm and tight,  
Through the icy winter night,  
The rabbit sleeps the peaceful hours away.

Call, wind, call,  
In entry and in hall,  
Straight from the mountain white and wild!  
Soft purrs the cat  
On her fluffy mat,  
And beside her nestles close her furry child.

Scold, wind, scold,  
So bitter and so bold!  
Shake the windows with your tap, tap, tap!  
With half-shut, dreamy eyes  
The drowsy baby lies,  
Cuddled close in his mother's lap.

*Winter Nights*

1. In each stanza of the poem, the writer creates two different moods: danger and security. Fill in the chart with three examples of each mood.

Danger	Security
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

2. Is “Winter Nights” a good title for this poem? Use two examples from the poem to support your answer.

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*Winter Nights*

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3. Based on the author's descriptions in the poem, compare and contrast the sleeping conditions of the squirrel, rabbit, kitten, and baby.

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4. Does the poem present an accurate account of a winter storm? Use details from the poem and from your personal experience to support your answer.

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## *Winter Nights*

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### **Alternate Constructed-Response Item**

What is the main idea of the poem? Use two details from the poem to explain your answer.

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**Circle the letter of the correct answer for Questions 5 and 6.**

5. When the poet tells the wind to shake the windows with its “tap, tap, tap,” which kind of figurative language is she using?
- A. metaphor
  - B. onomatopoeia
  - C. personification
  - D. simile
6. Which line from the poem provides the best example of alliteration?
- A. “Battle with the boughs till break o’ day!”
  - B. “In a snow cave warm and tight,”
  - C. “The squirrel nests in his cozy bed.”
  - D. “Send it twirling, whirling overhead!”

## *Winter Nights*

7. Now you will write a paper in response to a writing prompt. First, read the prompt in the box below.

You will now have 45 minutes for your prewriting activities such as brainstorming, listing, outlining, and writing a rough draft. Use the pages in the test booklet labeled “prewriting” to record your ideas and your rough draft.

You will then have another 45 minutes in which to write your final paper. Use the pages in the test booklet labeled “final paper” to record your completed work.

**In the poem, Mary F. Butts presents a vivid picture of a winter storm. There are many different types of storms. Write a paper to a friend about a time when you experienced a storm. Be sure to include specific details to describe your feelings during the storm.**

### **Prewriting**

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## Winter Nights

## Prewriting

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Prewriting

Lined area for prewriting notes.



## Winter Nights

## Prewriting

[illegible]

## Winter Nights

## Prewriting

[illegible]

## Final Paper

[illegible]

## Final Paper

[illegible]

## Final Paper

[illegible]

## Final Paper

[illegible]